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SUMMER 2004

THE CONTINENTAL MARINE MAGAZINE



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remain steady during
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THIS PAGE:

When units from 1st Marine Division in Ar Ramadi capture enemy prisoners of war, many are sent here before being released or sent to a larger prison in Iraq. Photo by Cpl. Paula M. Fitzgerald.

COVERS

FRONT: Reserve Marines with India Company, 3rd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, peer over a cliff to spot potential threats against Camp Fallujah, Iraq March 23, 2004. More than 3,000 Reserve Marines are providing security and stabilization operations in the Al Anbar province. Photo by: Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

BACK: A KC-130 Hercules with VMGR-234 sits on the flight line in Al Asad, Iraq in April. The unit is supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom II by supplying aerial transport capabilities to 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. Photo by: Sgt. Rob Henderson.

ConMar

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Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine
Editor

Sgt. Rob Henderson
Correspondent

Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi
Correspondent

Cpl. Ryan J. Skaggs
Correspondent/Webmaster

Cpl. Lana D. Waters
Correspondent

Memo!!!

HQMC looks to experienced leaders for help

STAFF SGT. L.C. HOLLOWAY

HQMC, Washington D.C.

HQMC, Washington D.C. — The Marine Corps is looking for a few good retirees — about 150, to be exact.

The Commandant of the Marine Corps recently authorized the expanded use of the retired Marine population to help fill the more than 2,500 existing Global War on Terrorism-related billets, according to Lt. Col. Linda McGowan, deputy section head, Mobilization, Plans and Policy branch, Headquarters Marine Corps.

Retirees with experience in the intelligence, communications, public affairs, civil affairs, linguistics, logistics and administration fields are among the prime targets, McGowan said.

While Reserve Marines remain valuable assets to the Marine Corps, retirees typically have the higher levels of rank, security clearances and relevant experience required to fill many of the GWOT billets, said McGowan.

Activating retirees is also more cost effective. When a retiree is mobilized, his retirement benefits stop for the duration of the mobilization, and he receives regular pay and allowances according to his grade and time in service. Compared to the cost of mobilizing a Reserve Marine of the same grade, the Marine Corps saves money equal to the amount of the retired Marine's benefits, according to an approved Secretary of the Navy memorandum.

The intent is to maximize the use of our large pool of qualified and capable retirees who volunteer for active service, said Lt. Col. Jeffrey A. Riehl, officer-in-charge of sourcing, MPP branch.

"We currently have about 20 retirees retained or recalled to active duty serving in GWOT-related billets," said Riehl.

"Retained" retirees are those who haven't yet left active duty, but upon reaching their scheduled retirement date remain in their current billet. Once their mobilization orders are complete, they will begin to collect retirement benefits, based on their original

retirement date.

In contrast, "recalled" retirees are those who retired as scheduled, began collecting retirement benefits, and then were mobilized to support GWOT. Upon completion of their mobilization orders, their retirement benefits are reinstated.

As far as their effect on the rest of the Marine Corps goes, retained and recalled retirees will count toward active duty end strength, said Riehl. However, because of the anticipated small number of retiree activations, they won't negatively impact manpower plans, and, based on a SecNav waiver, they won't count toward controlled promotion tables either, he said.

Bernard McGowan, currently a project manager for the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center in Jacksonville, N.C., is a retired Marine lieutenant colonel who was one of the first in the "retired/recalled" category to be mobilized.

"I knew the Marine Corps was looking for folks with my (military occupational specialty) and I felt a call to duty, so I volunteered," he said.

After retiring in September 2000, McGowan was then mobilized for 179 days in January 2002. He served as the assistant chief of staff, G-6, 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Anti-Terrorism), Camp Lejeune, N.C.

"The Corps needed me, and I was glad to help out," he said.

To be qualified to serve, retirees must not have a medical disability rating or have been retired more than five years, added Riehl.

Retirees interested in volunteering should immediately submit their information via Reserve Duty OnLine (RDOL) at <https://rdol.mol.usmc.mil>. (A user ID and password can be obtained by registering on Marine OnLine at <https://www.mol.usmc.mil/>.)

Retirees or commands seeking retirees should contact Lt. Col. Jeffrey Riehl at (703) 432-9177/78, e-mail riehlja@manpower.usmc.mil; or Master Sgt. Vincent Tate at (703) 784-9317, e-mail tatevp@manpower.usmc.mil.

Chaplain Introduction:

From the Editor:

The Chaplain's Corner is a new feature we are adding to the ConMar. Each edition will feature writings and passages from chaplains throughout the Chaplain Corps.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the chaplain and his staff at Marine Forces Reserve.



Capt. Moses L. Stith

Lance Cpl. Lydia L. Collision

The chaplains have a name for the senior active duty member of their corps - "The Grey Shepherd." He's the one who other chaplains look to for advice and information. Marines and sailors of Marine Forces Reserve are exceptionally lucky to have the Grey Shepherd watching out for them.

Before entering the service, Navy Capt. Moses L. Stith, Force Chaplain, MarForRes, served as Campus Minister at both Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Fla., and the University of Pittsburgh. He also served as Chairman of the University Chaplains Association at the University of Pittsburgh, and was appointed to the Pinellas County School Board by the governor of Florida and served as Pastor of Churches in Florida and Pennsylvania. He received his commission in the Naval Reserve as a Lieutenant (junior grade) in 1974 and began active duty in 1980.

The chaplain's staff here is comprised of Cmdr. Roosevelt H. Brown, assistant force chaplain, RPCS Derrick Hubbard, Force Religious Program Specialist and RP3 Stacey Chamness, religious program specialist.

The Chaplain Corps' responsibilities include providing services to Marines, sailors and their families upon return from deployment, Chaplains Religious Enrichment Development Operation retreats for couples, suicide prevention and pastoral care.

The chaplain can be reached at 504-678-6633 or toll-free at 1-866-886-7159 Monday thru Friday.

Guardian Angels



Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

A Marine with Personal Security Detachment, I Marine Expeditionary Force, portrays an aggressor firing on a Marine vehicle at Camp Victory.

PSD prepares for missions in Iraq

CPL. MATTHEW J. APPRENDI

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

CAMPVICTORY, Kuwait — Reserve Marines from Personal Security Detachment, I Marine Expeditionary Force prepared for their missions in Iraq by honing their force protection skills at Camp Victory.

While in Kuwait, the detachment trained for a variety of situations that included polishing convoy-driving tactics, counter-surveillance techniques and identification of improvised explosive devices.

On Feb. 28 the team, comprised predominantly of Reserve Marines, focused on their driving skills.

The training scenario involved evacuating the “principal,” the commanding general of I MEF, from “hairy situations.”

One situation placed members of the PSD and the principal being attacked by an enemy vehicle, portrayed by other PSD Marines.

“Most of us have seen combat together,” said Sgt. Robert Mendoza, who was mobilized from 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion. “We know we’re not going to freeze up, when we get into a bad situation - we’ll do whatever it takes to bring everyone back safely.”

The PSD had to lose the aggressors by whipping through a simulated street and completing different driving tactics to evade the enemy.

The majority of I MEF Commanding General Lt. Gen. James T. Conway’s PSD is comprised of veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom; those who aren’t, bring experience from their civilian jobs.

“We have a great mix of combat and law enforcement experience,” said Sgt. Kristoffer K. Bauer, PSD, a native of Redding, Calif.

The bulk of the team was mobilized from 4th LAR and 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment.

“Most of us were in Iraq for eight months during the first round,” said Mendoza, a native of Houston. “We have the knowledge of the streets, people and what to look for when driving in convoys.”

Their experience derives not only from the battlefield, but also from the Military Mobility Force Protection Course, where PSD members learned mission specific tactics to protect their principal.

“The great thing about this course was (the instructors) just didn’t talk about being in stressful situations in a classroom setting - they put you in real live scenarios that got your heart pumping,” said Bauer.

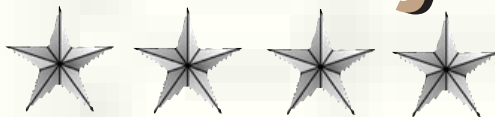


Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

Sgt. Robert Mendoza, Personal Security Detachment, I Marine Expeditionary Force, dashes across the desert floor to a vehicle during a convoy training class at Camp Victory.

Corps' top brass greet Reserve Marines near Fallujah

SGT. ROB HENDERSON
Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office



AL TAQADDUM, Iraq - The Commandant and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps flew with Marines of the composite Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron from Al Asad, Iraq, comprised of Reserve and active-duty Marines from VMGR-234 and VMGR-352, April 6.

General Michael W. Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps John L. Estrada, were in Iraq to visit with Marines involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

"We are here to visit the Marines," said Hagee. "We have 25,000 Marines in Iraq. I'm here to visit with them to see how they're doing, and if there is anything I can do for them."

Hagee and Estrada are on a tour to meet Marines deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism and operating in various theatres worldwide. So far on the tour, which has included stops in Afghanistan and Iraq, the commandant has had a chance to speak with Reserve and active-duty Marines, and he has had a hard time telling them apart.

"All of the Marines have performed magnificently - both active and Reserve," said Hagee. "I can't tell the difference between an active-duty and a Reserve unit out here which speaks highly of the Reserve units we have operating in our different areas of responsibility."

During the hour-

long flight from Kuwait International Airport to Al Taqaddum, Iraq, Estrada took the opportunity to speak to the aircrew aboard the KC-130. He talked about the Reserve forces' role in Operation Iraqi Freedom II and what their role will be in upcoming operations.

"The Reserve Marines have performed as outstandingly through OIF II as they did through OIF I. We, the Marine Corps, could not do what we do without them," said Estrada. "We are going to continue to use the Reserve forces to augment the active-duty Marines in the future. Since they have proven themselves to be well-suited for the challenge, we are going to continue using our Reserve forces as we need them."

The Reserve Marines of VMGR-234, headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas, and VMGR-352, headquartered at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., have flown under a single squadron banner throughout OIF I and II. With missions focusing on resupply, troop transport and aerial refueling, it was a welcome change of pace to fly the Corps'

top brass into a combat zone.

"It was really nice to see that the two most important men in the Marine Corps care enough about Marines to fly into harm's way just to visit them," said Cpl. Nathan E. Dietsch, flight mechanic, VMGR-352. "To be part of the aircrew that got them where they needed to go to visit Marines was a good experience."



Sgt. Rob Henderson

General Michael W. Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps, John L. Estrada, meet the crew of the KC-130 they flew on from Kuwait International Airport to Al Taqaddum, Iraq.

Swedish-Born Marine comes back for seconds



Cpl. Sven Hestrand, Personal Security Detachment, I Marine Expeditionary Force, is currently at Forward Operating Base St. Mere, Iraq.

CPL. MATTHEW J. APPRENDI

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

CAMPVICTORY, Kuwait—

Deployed to Lebanon, Sarajevo and Kosovo as a member of the Swedish Army and later to Operation Iraqi Freedom as a U.S. Marine, Reserve Cpl. Sven Hestrand once again is serving his country abroad.

This time, Hestrand is a member of the Personal Security Detachment for Lt. Gen. James T. Conway, the I Marine Expeditionary Force commanding general, for the MEF's second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"People always ask, 'You just spent six months over there - why go back?'" said Hestrand, who completed his first tour in Iraq in December of 2003.

"Because I like it - not in the sense of adventure, but in the aspect of giving me purpose in my life. I don't have to worry about the incidentals, the gas prices or who's winning on American Idol, because it really doesn't matter out here. The only thing that does is doing your job and staying alive, and you get hooked up with some of the best people in the world doing it."

Hestrand's first deployments came when he was in the Swedish Army, as a member of United Nations peacekeeping forces.

"It's a great eye-opener for young guys," he said. "It's a chance to see new cultures and work with foreign militaries."

These deployments were not a leisure vacation for the peacekeeper - places like Lebanon and Bosnia were designated combat zones and it was the mission of the U.N. peacekeepers to bring stability to the countries.

Hestrand speaks little about that period in his life, but admits he's

Cpl. Matthew J. Appendi

gained confidence in himself, and how he will react in combat situations.

"I fall back on my training," he said. "A lot of guys don't even think about it as combat during - you realize after the fact, 'I could've died.'"

He also said he feels very comfortable with his team, because most have been through the stresses of combat and have experience from being police officers on the civilian side.

"(Hestrand) brings a lot of knowledge from past units - all the way from foreign militaries to being a part of different conflicts," said Sgt. Jeffery McCoy, a PSD team member, a native of Riverside, Calif. "I trust him one thousand percent to watch my back. He's just an all-around good guy."

Hestrand joined the Swedish Army in 1987 after graduating high school in Gothenburg, Sweden. In Sweden, one year of military service is mandatory. But one year of service was not enough for the six-foot-two Marine.

"I wanted to become an officer," said Hestrand. "So I completed (Officer Candidate School) in 1988 and became an infantry officer."

According to Hestrand, the Swedish Army is much different than the Marine Corps. There are no noncommissioned officers, so small-unit leadership, training and daily operations with the troops rely heavily on junior officers.

"If you think the Marine Corps doesn't have any money, the Swedish Army has none at all," Hestrand said with a chuckle.

In 1992, after completing his service to the Swedish Army, he received a scholarship for football to attend Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas.

"I figured I come out for a year, come back to Sweden and tell everyone I played college ball," he said. "But, I liked it, so

another year passed, then another and another," until he received his U.S. citizenship in 2002.

He graduated from college with a double major in health and physical education in 1996. Soon after, he began a job at St. John's Military School in Salina, Kan., teaching physical education and health classes.

"It was 2001. I was watching some military show on the Discovery Channel," said Hestrand. "I thought the military bug was out of my system, but I guess not. I joined the Marine Corps Reserve. I went to boot camp the summer of 2001."

At the time, Hestrand was 33 years old.

He looked into becoming a commissioned officer, but the Corps said he was too old. Despite his age, Hestrand, now 36, still achieves the highest score possible in the Marine Corps Physical Fitness Test. He runs three miles under 18 minutes, pumps out more than 20 dead-hang pull-ups and completes more than 100 crunches in less than two minutes.

During the beginning stages of OIF, Hestrand's ammunition unit, based out of Topeka, Kan., was activated. The unit was sent to Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Hestrand's unit was deactivated after major combat operations concluded in May; however, he wanted no part of demobilizing.

Hestrand began asking around to find which billet openings were needed in Iraq. A forward observer was needed in Baghdad. Hestrand had the experience - he got the job, and deployed in June 2003.

Reflecting on redeploying so soon after returning from Iraq, Hestrand simply said, "Call me old fashioned, but one of the reasons I love the Marine Corps is the hard work ethic - I truly respect that."

Cameron University offers on-line credits at Marine Installations worldwide

MARINE CORPS COMMUNITY SERVICE
News Release

QUANTICO, Va. – The U.S. Marine Corps and the University of Oklahoma have developed an agreement to provide Master of Business Administration (MBA) degrees through Cameron University to the U.S. Marine Corps. This agreement allows OU to use the Marine Corps Satellite Education Network (MCSN) to offer classes to Marines stationed at 19 bases worldwide.

Cameron University's M.B.A., is currently offered at all Marine Corps installations on the East and West Coast and provides military students the opportunity to obtain their degree in an intensive format that fits their active duty schedule. Courses are offered to allow students to earn up to three credit hours by completing pre-course assignments, attending a one-week intensive seminar, and additional independent coursework. Courses are primarily taught by main campus faculty providing the same curriculum and content as those courses offered to conventional students.



The M.B.A. is a 33 credit hour program, providing students resident credit and is regionally accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and nationally accredited by the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs. Courses are scheduled non-sequentially, allowing students to enroll at any time during the year. No entrance examinations are required.

For frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the program, please view http://www.usmc-mccs.org/perssvc/Life_Learn/life_learn_main.asp. Students interested in the program can contact Davida Mahoney at (405) 325-9143 or email: dmahoney@ou.edu.

Reserve Marines fulfill critical roles in OIF

CPL. MATTHEW J. APPRENDI

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

CAMPTAQADDUM, Iraq – They are the lawyers as infantrymen, the doctors as mechanics and the contractors as helicopter pilots.

From the minutemen of the Revolutionary War to the Reserves defending their nation today - U.S. citizens have left their civilian lives behind to enter combat zones.

Currently, during Operation Iraqi Freedom alone, more than 3,000 Marine Reserves are supporting I Marine Expeditionary Force's mission of conducting security and stabilization operations in the Al Anbar province.

The largest unit representing the Reserves, 3rd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, based out of Bridgeton, Mo., spearheads force protection at four bases for I MEF. They control Camps Fallujah, Al Asad, Taqaddum and Abu Ghurayb prison.

"Before coming out here, I expected it to be miserable," said Lance Cpl. Jeffery W. Herman, a missile gunner with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 24th Marines, who works for an auto parts store in Tulsa, Okla. "That statement holds pretty true, but I push through and complete my job."

Pushing through the chaos of combat was exactly what two Marines with I MEF's Personal Security Detachment did recently.

Sgt. Kristoffer K. Bauer and Cpl. Sven Hestrand were provid-



Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

Reserve Marines with I Marine Expeditionary Force's Personal Security Detachment prepare to engage targets at a live fire range near Camp Victory, Kuwait March 7, 2004.

ing security during a re-supply mission in Fallujah when they took fire in the form of rocket-propelled grenades, mortars and small arms. The two received Purple Hearts for their wounds.

This was Bauer's second award. He received his first during his initial activation with 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion in support of OIF last year; a scar on his face serves as a constant reminder of combat for the Redding, Calif., native.

Hestrand did not even notice his wounds, a piece of shrapnel that grazed his backside, until hours after they had returned to camp. The Guthenburg, Sweden native moved to America in 1992 and when not in camouflage utilities he works as a health and P.E. teacher at St. Johns Military School in Salina, Kansas.

"I thought that I did not deserve it, because mine was a minor injury," said the 36-year-old Hestrand, on receiving the award. "I thought about all those guys that received it posthumously, and the ones with lost limbs. I felt undeserving. However, I was proud to receive the oldest medal in the United States."

Units and individual augmentees were mobilized from Marine Forces Reserve, the largest command in the Marine Corps, encompassing more than 100,000 Marines in the 4th Marine Division, 4th Force Service Support Group and 4th Marine Aircraft Wing.

"This is the first time I've directly worked with Reserves," said Master Sgt. Frank V. Alessi, the logistics chief with 1st FSSG, and a Pittsburgh, Pa., native. "The Marines are top notch. They bring a lot to the table."

He explained it does not matter if a Marine is a Reserve or on active duty. Marines all wear the same eagle, globe and anchor.

The majority of the Reserves in Iraq are under one-year activation orders. However, some choose to extend upon their mandatory time.

"I feel there's still a need for me to stay here," said Gunnery Sgt. Gregory McMurrey, logistics operations chief, 1st Force Service Support Group, who's pursuing an extension. "It's an effort I want to be a part of. Truthfully, I'm already here. I might as well prevent another Marine from leaving his family back home."



Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

Cpl. Sven Hestrand, Personal Security Detachment, I Marine Expeditionary Force, receives the Purple Heart from I MEF's commanding general, Lt. Gen. James T. Conway, for wounds he received during a firefight in Fallujah, Iraq, in April.

MarForRes Marines go the extra mile

CPL. RYAN J. SKAGGS
Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

MARINE FORCES RESERVE, New Orleans – Marines of Marine Forces Reserve took to the streets of New Orleans April 10 to volunteer their time in support of the community's yearly 10K run.

Approximately 70 Marines from MarForRes and the Marine Forces Reserve Band assisted in welcoming athletes from around the world to participate in the 26th annual Crescent City Classic.

"The race benefits the city and we are here to volunteer," said Lt. Col. Robert L. Gardner, commanding officer, Headquarters Battalion, MarForRes, who had the privilege of firing the race's opening shot. "It's an opportunity to interact with the people of the town and show them we are not just people in uniform, but among the community as well."

The Crescent City Classic is a 6.2-mile road race of Olympic-sized proportions in a block-party style setting. Among those who participated were world-class athletes competing at the highest level and those who simply wanted to come out and enjoy the festive event.

Marines provided crowd control for approximately 15,500 runners and walkers who swelled the downtown streets. The Marine Forces Reserve Band added to the mix with pre-race melodies that brought more energy to an already



Cpl. Ryan J. Skaggs

Marines of Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans, joined the ranks of the other thousands of runners participating in the Crescent City Classic in true Marine Corps fashion – a guidon-led formation pounding the pavement to the rhythm of cadence.

charged-up atmosphere.

"It puts the Marines in the community," said Maj. Thomas Nelson, public affairs officer, MarForRes, who has coordinated the Marine element of the race for four years. "Even though New Orleans is the headquarters for MarForRes, it's not necessarily known as a Marine town. It's good to be in front of the people, show our flag and provide community support."

As the race began, the Marines joined the ranks of the runners in Marine Corps fashion – a guidon-led formation pounding the pavement to the rhythm of cadence.

They traced the path of the race course through the city filled with cheers and crossed the finish line as one.

"It's uplifting to see the Marines running," said Lauren Brignac, a native of Gretna, La., and three-year participant of the Crescent City Classic. "It motivates the other runners and shows the spirit of camaraderie when they stay together the whole run."

At the finish line, Marines continued to provide support by assisting in the medical tent and handing out refreshments during the after party. Although no Marine walked away with a trophy, they all left with the reward of their efforts.

"In this time and day for our country, it's inspiring," said Rick Elmore, start coordinator for the Crescent City Classic. "The visibility of the Marines reinforces the reasons for us to support their efforts."

"It personalizes the Marines," said Maj. Charles C. Miller, executive officer, Headquarters Battalion, MarForRes. "It brings us closer to the community. Marines enjoy public service and the chance to do something for the people outside the Marine Corps. Otherwise, all people see of us is through the lens of the war."



Cpl. Ryan J. Skaggs

Approximately 15,500 people from around the globe swelled the streets of New Orleans to participate in the 26th annual Crescent City Classic.

~ VMGR-234 ~

Marines earn their Combat Aircrew Insignia



Sgt. Jason T. Tauch, flight mechanic, Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 234, augmented to VMGR-352, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, checks an intake on a KC-130 'Hercules' during a pre-flight inspection in Al Asad, Iraq, March 31. Tauch and six of his squadron mates were awarded their Combat Aircrew Insignia later the same day in a ceremony held after sunset.

SGT. ROB HENDERSON
Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

ALASAD, Iraq — Seven Reserve Marines of Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 234, headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas, received their Combat Aircrew Insignia at a squadron formation here, March 31.

Many of the awardees, enlisted crewmen on Marine KC-130s, flew in support of

Operation Iraqi Freedom last year, and are proving their mettle once again this year.

"For a KC-130 crewmember, the Combat Aircrew Insignia is hard to come by," said Lt. Col. Clarke D. Clodfelder, officer-in-charge, VMGR-234, Al Asad detachment. "It wasn't until the last 10 years or so that Marine KC-130s were looked at to be employed in more of an assault-support role instead of just for refueling."

A change in Marine Corps tactics opened the door for enlisted aircrew members to begin receiving the insignia with the same frequency as their peers in the aviation community, but the change didn't make achieving the insignia less strenuous.

In order to be awarded the Combat Aircrew Insignia, a Marine has to graduate from an aircrew school and fly combat missions in a designated combat zone. The wings can be awarded for single missions during which an enemy is engaged or for targeted missions against fortified enemy positions, according to the Assignment Classification and Travel System manual.

"As an enlisted aircrew member, the Combat Aircrew Insignia is something

that lets everyone else know you've been there, done that and participated in the real thing," said Clodfelder, a native of Highlands Ranch, Colo.

For one recipient, the Combat Aircrew Insignia symbolizes his transformation from the groundside of the Marine Corps to the aviation community.

Sgt. Jason T. Tauch, flight mechanic, was deployed with 7th Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., to Mogadishu, Somalia, during Operation Joint Guardian in 1994. During Operation Joint Guardian, Tauch earned a Combat Action Ribbon while supporting the United Nation's withdrawal from the war-torn country.

A few years after separating from the Marine Corps, Tauch rejoined as a Reserve, but this time, he yearned for something different. Training as a KC-130 flight mechanic, he was ready to take his test for full certification prior to being deployed in early February. This deployment came on the heels of another deployment to Al Jabar, Kuwait, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom last year.

"I was glad to be here, because I got my qualification as a flight mechanic, and I got the Combat Aircrew Insignia," said Tauch. "Coming back to Iraq this year really let me learn what this job is all about."

For the detachment, tasked with augmenting VMGR-352, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., this is the best way to thank the Marines for their hard work and dedication to duty, according to Clodfelder.

"When we get the chance to do something positive, reward someone or recognize someone, that makes it all worthwhile," he said.

4TH FORCE RECON KEEPS

*Soaring 9,000 feet above
Oahu, Sgt. Therriault re-enlists
in the Reserves.*

LANCE CPL. MICHELLE M. DICKSON

MCB Hawaii Public Affairs Office

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII, Kaneohe Bay — Marines re-enlist every day in the Marine Corps, and for some, that day should be just as memorable - or more so - as the first day they signed up.

Sgt. Richard T. Therriault, a communicator with 4th Force Reconnaissance Company, decided there couldn't be a better way than by free falling from 9,000 feet above the earth.

April 8 marked Therriault's eighth year as a Marine. He said he originally joined the Corps for memorable and adventurous challenges.

"I came to visit my brother who was

MARINE HIGH



2nd Lt. Pamela Marshall

Sgt. Richard T. Therriault, a communicator with 4th Force Reconnaissance Company, MCBH, catches some air during his 31st free fall after re-enlisting for the second time in the Marine Corps Reserve.

with the Navy in Hawaii, and I absolutely loved it [in Hawaii]," he said. "I moved out here, and now it will be 10 years in September."

Therriault said his father was in the Marine Corps and completed a tour in Vietnam. He realized he didn't want to join any other branch and joined the Marine Corps Reserve in Hawaii.

His job area of choice was reconnaissance.

"All through high school, I thought really highly of reconnaissance," Therriault explained. "I wanted to go to college, and the more I thought about it, the better option [recon] seemed to be."

The re-enlistment jump for Therriault marked the 31st free fall in his career.

Piggy-backing on periodic training, he went up with six others who were more than happy to share the moment.

"I was really happy that my section leader made it up there as well," said Therriault. "It's part of our job to jump for basic training, and it was great to have good people there with me."

After jumping from the helo, the free fall lasted approximately 45 seconds when the parachute was pulled at roughly 4,000 feet.

Therriault said he would like his Marine Corps career to continue in like fashion - soaring high.



2nd Lt. Pamela Marshall

Maj. Edward W. Novak (left) congratulates Sgt. Richard T. Therriault (right), a communicator with 4th Force Reconnaissance Company, Marine Corps Base Hawaii Kaneohe Bay.



Sgt. Jose E. Guillen

3rd CAG visits villages near Fallujah

With aid of an interpreter, Lt. Col. Colin P. McNease meets with tribal sheiks near Fallujah. The 3rd CAG has taken on projects to improve life for the villagers, including paving a two-kilometer road and providing 50 tons of fertilizer as the planting season nears for farmers.

SGT. JOSE E. GUILLEN

MCB Camp Pendleton Public Affairs Office

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq — Marines put a new twist on mending fences in a village near Fallujah.

Marines from 3rd Civil Affairs Group, based out of Camp Pendleton, visited the hamlet dubbed Tank Village and surrounding communities May 6 to compensate for the damages.

About two weeks before, an M-1A1 tank was mired in mud in the small village of Al Budekil. Retriever crews yanked the monstrous vehicle from a farm field, but tore up valuable cropland in the process. A recent visit, though, not only fixed the problems, but also allowed Marines to gain the trust of local Iraqis.

"All of this is a chain reaction from where the tank got stuck," said Lt. Col. Colin P. McNease, officer-in-charge of the 3rd CAG detachment under Regimental Combat Team 1. "Aside from paying for damages, we told them we could start some projects out here."

It didn't take long for the word to spread that Marines have taken an interest in lending a helping hand.

"People from other villages heard that we compensated for the damages, but also saw that we brought fertilizer and tools for that one village," McNease explained. "As we were leaving, they waved us down wondering if we're willing to work with their villages too."

The help for the villagers couldn't come at a better time. Planting season is starting for Iraqi farmers and Marines helped by delivering about 50 tons of fertilizer.

"We're also going to do some irrigation work to help them get started," McNease said.

Other smaller steps have been made in villages surrounding

the city. Marines are planning on paving two kilometers of road and have already paid out damage claims that were a result of fighting in April.

"One of my jobs is to pay claims and to give money for good-will projects," said Maj. Greg G. Gillette, staff judge advocate for RCT-1. "We paid a farmer \$4,500 for damages to his car, three cows that were killed and for his crops," added Gillette, a native of New York, Pa.

Gillette said the compensation may not pay for the entire damage, but it will certainly help the farmer get back on his feet.

Gillette works with village sheiks mostly, but at times he speaks directly with villagers presenting the claims.

"I need corroboration, so I mostly deal directly with the tribal sheiks," said Gillette. "We paid... a sheik \$9,000 as a good-will payment for damages his village suffered during some of the fighting."

It wasn't just a time to mend fences, though. Marines, swarmed by children, gave away pens and pencils, soccer balls, nets and Frisbees donated by Spirit of America, a nonprofit organization based in Los Angeles.

"It's great being able to interact with people in a kind way and make them smile," said Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Aaron M. Fullmer, a religious program specialist for RCT-1 from Las Vegas. "If nothing else, it gives them a better view of Americans - exactly what they need."

Marines plan for more visits to the village, hoping that the next encounter won't be about damages from fighting.

"I'm sure there are some people who don't want this program to succeed, but the people working with us right now want it to," McNease said. "It's coming along great. We're just trying to build a good will with these villages."

“SPARE PARTS” tells the story of Reserve transitions

CPL. CLINTON F. FIRSTBROOK

HQMC Public Affairs Office

ARLINGTON, Va. — While many Marine Corps Reserve units are being activated to deploy for Operation Iraqi Freedom II, a former Light Armored Vehicle crewman published his experiences of his transition to a combat Marine during Operation Desert Storm, giving his readers a look into the world of Reserves through his book, “Spare Parts.”

“Spare Parts” is the story of Dwayne “Buzz” Williams’ harrowing deployment to the Persian Gulf, where he would be thrust into battle only 38 days after being called up. Despite the challenges, he managed to form a core group that struggled to gain respect from a military machine that viewed them as mere spare parts. In gripping detail, Williams brings to life the physical and emotional trials he faced on the killing fields of Kuwait, where some Marines were able to rise to the challenge and others were broken by the horrors of war.

“I wrote the events that occurred in

I became more motivated than ever to finish writing when I realized that my story could bring some long overdue recognition and respect to Reserves.

~Buzz Williams~

Chapter One 14 years ago in a journal entry shortly after returning from boot camp,” said Williams. “My friends and family wanted to know what boot camp was like, and I could convey the experience better in writing. During those years, I made occasional attempts to add to the story, but had neither the motivation or the focus that writing demands. All I really managed was a series of disconnected journal

entries. The media coverage of what would become Operation Iraqi Freedom gave me both the motivation and the focus.”

“I was initially intrigued when Williams’ agent first phoned me,” said Brendan Cahill, “Spare Parts” editor. “But I really got hooked by the writing from the very first sentence: ‘The yellow footprints called.’ In this book, you gain a real appreciation of the human dimension of the men and women who are called from their day-to-day jobs all across America to defend our country at short notice.”

“My original motivation was to share the reality of what it means to be a Marine with my son Tyler, age five, and daughter Sofia, age one,” said Williams. “I wanted them to understand the things that I didn’t when I made my decision to join the Marines. Once I began working with my agent and editor, my focus shifted toward getting a message out to the general public. I became more motivated then ever to finish writing when I realized that my story could bring some long overdue recognition and respect to Reserves.”

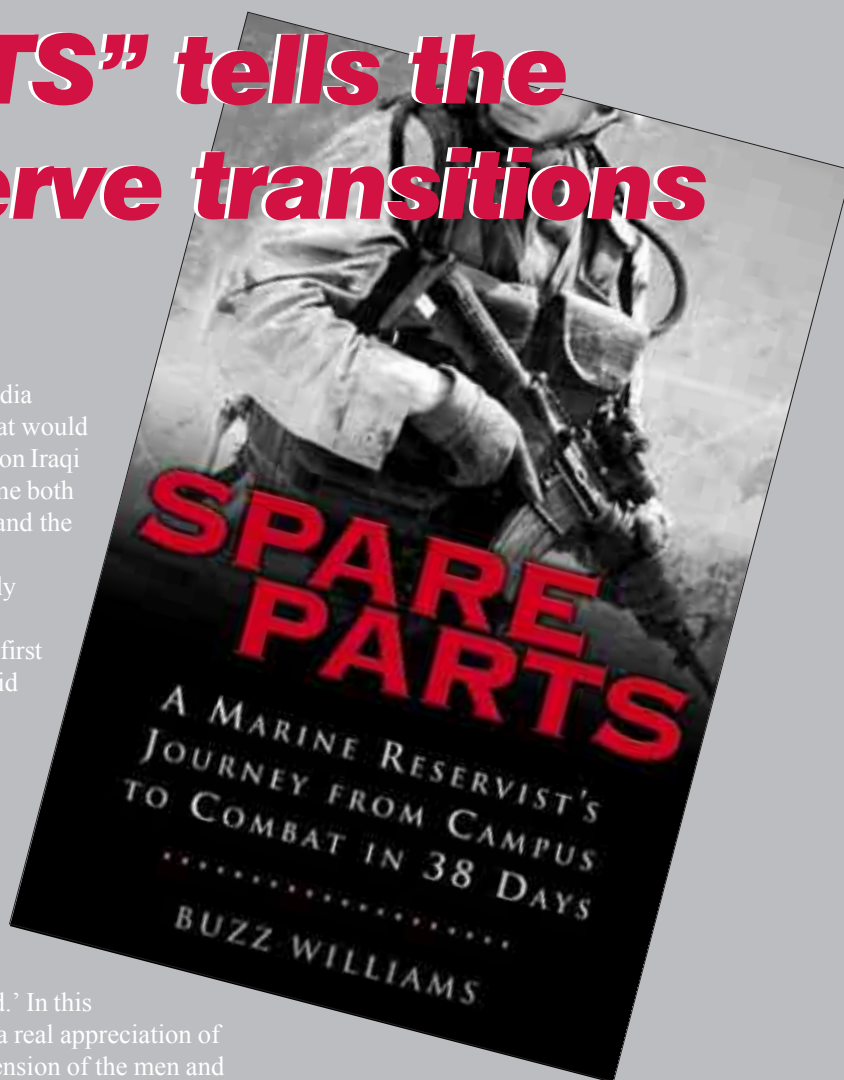
While Williams has written several articles for professional journals, this book is his first mainstream non-fiction effort. The book has already received positive feedback from other authors and reviewers, and was released March 8.

“Spare Parts” tells it straight as a jarhead at attention. Beginning with the stumbling

forced march from boot camp’s yellow footprints to the nightmares of war.

“It is an equal-opportunity hell,” said Joel Turnipseed, Baghdad Express author. “Buzz Williams tells the honest, deeply human story of a young teacher sent off to war. That he neither shrinks from duty nor hides its horrors and stupidities makes his tale a welcome addition to the ranks of our Gulf War storytellers.”

“Long-service Marines know that their Reserves have responded bravely under fire time after time, in conflict after conflict,” said Ret. Col. John Miller, author of *The Bridge at Dong Ha* and *The Co-Vans: U.S. Marine Advisors in Vietnam*. “This superbly written account of Desert Shield and Desert Storm by Buzz Williams drives the point home with authentic detail. This is a must-read for Marines and friends of Marines.”



CPL. MATTHEW J. APPRENDI

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office



Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

Lance Cpl. John T. Keim, an infantryman with India Company, 3rd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, walks down the stairs of an observation post at Forwarding Operating Base St. Mere, Iraq after completing guard duty in March.

3/24: *Duties* *in*

IRAQ

Tennessee Reserves Ready to Protect Coalition Forces



Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

Barbed wire surrounds one of India Company, 3rd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment's guard posts at Forward Operating Base St. Mere, Iraq.

FORWARD OPERATING BASE ST. MERE, Iraq

— India Company, 3rd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment took control of force protection at Forward Operating Base St. Mere, Iraq from members of the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division March 13.

The Nashville, Tenn., unit was mobilized Jan. 5 to serve with the 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force. During their activation, India Co. has assumed the internal and external security responsibility for coalition forces operating aboard the camp in support of the MEF's deployment to Iraq.

"We're proud to be a part of 1st Marine Division," said Maj. Byron W. Lawson, commanding officer, India Company, a native of Knoxville, Tenn. "We've been training very hard for this day, and we're very happy it has arrived. We're ready to execute our mission."

Their mission is security; however, according to Lawson, they are also conducting civil military operations with numerous villages located outside of the camp perimeter.

"We hope to make a positive relationship between the locals and our presence here," he said.

For many, this is their first deployment, but the Marines are close and are keeping each other's spirits high during their activation, said Pfc. Brandon R.

Stewart, an infantryman with 4th Platoon.

"There's been no fights or anything like that, probably because we're all from the same area," said the construction worker from Murfreesboro, Tenn. "A lot of us even went to the same schools together."

Stewart feels his unit has prepared him thoroughly for any type of hostile action that may arise.

"What's really prepared us is our awesome leadership," he said. "They've been there for us every step of the way - anything that we've needed, they got it done for us."

He said his unit trained extensively on convoy operations, improvised explosive devices and stabilization and security operations before they arrived in theater approximately one month ago.

He does admit, "I miss my friends and family very much, but I'm happy I'm out here doing my part."

Cpl. Charles G. Johnston III, leader of the search team for 2nd Platoon, said, "It doesn't matter how many deployments you've been on, you're always going to miss home."

Johnston, a graphic designer

civilian, was deployed three times while on active duty from 1999 to 2003. He joined India Co. after he left active duty.

"Within a few months (of) leaving my active unit, (it) was deployed to Iraq," said the Chattanooga, Tenn., native. "I felt left out, so I began jockeying to be deployed with India."

One of Johnston's missions is working with the Quick Reaction Force, a component of India Co., which stands ready to react to and stabilize any type of threat to the base.

"India has definitely changed my perspective of the Reserves," he said. "I'd put them against any active-duty unit."

This is the first call to activation India Co. has received since Desert Storm. Now, during their one-year mobilization, they will support the coalition force's efforts to defeat the insurgency and bring stability to Iraq.

"This is why we're in the Reserves," said Lawson, "to continually prepare and stand ready for the call to enter combat zones."



Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

Sgt. Jojuantez Gray, an infantryman with India Company, 3rd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment rides to his guard post.

Lurking in the Iraqi

SGT. NATHAN K. LAFORTE

MCAS Miramar Public Affairs Office

ALASAD, Iraq — Day or night, rain or shine, sandstorms, wind, small-arms fire and rockets - it doesn't matter what obstacles are in the way - the Marines of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 764, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, accomplish their mission of moving troops and supplies to the furthest reaches of Western Iraq.

HMM



Sgt. Nathan K. LaForte

Sgt. Jared S. Watson (front) and Sgt. Scott E. Daingerfield (rear) set-up a bench seat inside a CH-46E Sea Knight, at Al Asad, Iraq, April 23. The two crewmembers from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 764, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, are configuring their helicopter to transport some Marines to a Forward Operating Base in Western Iraq.

SPRING • CONMAR • 2004

764 is a Reserve CH-46E Sea Knight squadron based out of Edwards Air Force Base, Texas. The squadron is part of Marine Aircraft Group 46, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, but is in Iraq attached to MAG-16, augmenting the 3rd MAW deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

While here, the "phrog" squadron, nicknamed the "Moonlighters," is one of the helicopter squadrons tasked with transporting troops and

cargo throughout the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force area of responsibility, in the Al Anbar province of Iraq.

Because of their mission, a few of the Moonlighters have started jokingly referring to their helicopters as the "Combat Bus," according to Sgt. Scott E. Daingerfield, aerial observer, HMM-764.

"We do troop lifts and small cargo movements," the Netcong, N.J., native said. "Because of that, everyone makes the joke of calling us a 'combat bus.' It's not as glamorous as (other missions), but we try to have a blast doing whatever we do."

Although some of the Marines claim that their job here is not as "sexy" as some of group's other squadrons, they still get satisfaction from it, according to Sgt. Jared S. Watson, Sea Knight crew chief, HMM-764.

"It's not a bad job at all," the East St. Louis native said. "It doesn't look glamorous because you're not in the fight, shooting (at the bad guys). However, you feel good when you get to haul supplies, like food and water, that people really need."

For now, the 24-year-old sergeant believes the missions are good for the squadron.

"They are good missions for us because it is our first time being deployed (as a squadron)," he noted. "A select few (Marines) have (deployed), but for the most part, not many have."

The lack of combat experience may have seemed to be an obstacle when the squadron arrived in theater, but those problems have long since been overcome, stated Daingerfield.

"We had a rough start because most of the squadron had never deployed," the 25-year-old Marine claimed. "We're falling into the groove, and it'll just get better (with time)."

The Reserve Marines' performance is evident despite their lack of combat experience before this deployment and other problems that have popped up, noted Watson.

"There seems to be a lot of maintenance and that is all part of our job," he realized. "I think we're doing really well and the Marines are learning very quickly."

Along with maintenance, the aircrew is responsible for the internal configuration of seats, which determines the amount of cargo and passengers the helicopter can carry. The crew is usually kept on their toes, and running around, because of last minute additions on their flights, Watson noted.

"It can be a pain in the butt sometimes because you get last minute changes of cargo," he noted. "(Someone) will add a pallet with 500-pounds of gear and you'll be carrying five people."

Daingerfield was quick to add that their hard work does not go unnoticed.

"I have never had a bad experience transporting

people,” the Marine said of his past six years in the Marine Corps. “(Our passengers) will pat us on the back and tell us we’re doing a good job and we’re just dropping them off.”

“They are going out and getting in (gunfights),” he added, “and they’ll thank us, which makes us feel good.”

The passengers aren’t the only people to give thanks to the Marines, Watson added.

“Sometimes I think we miss out on our (importance) out here,” he said. “So our (commanding officer) and sergeant major are constantly reminding us of that.”

Regardless of whether or not they get praise for their work, it doesn’t matter to most of the Marines, claimed Staff Sgt. David M. Schnack, quality assurance Marine and Sea Knight crew chief, HMM-764.

“It just feels good being out here after being in the Reserves for so long,” the Los Angeles native said. “It’s a chance to do my job, which is why I stayed in, to do my job.”

“It’s not glamorous, but we get people from here to there,” Schnack concluded. “(Some people) don’t see our importance. I mean there’s never going to be a movie like ‘Top Gun’ made on 46’s, but it’s still an important job.”

With no future motion picture debut in the future for the “Combat Bus” aircrews, they continue to do their job, Schnack said, which is to keep moving throughout the day or night, rain or shine....

“Wild Goose” Marines Recon New York City for Fleet Week

MAJ. DAVID C. ANDERSEN

New York Public Affairs Office

NEW YORK — In preparation for Fleet Week 2004 in New York City, Marines with the “Wild Goose” Reserve helicopter squadron from Norfolk, Va., made a trip to the Big Apple April 30 to complete a detailed landing zone reconnaissance flight.

“It is a one of a kind experience,” said Maj. Drew “Ike” Ryan, operations officer, Marine Aircraft Group 42, Detachment B. “To fly over the greatest city in the world is unbelievable and knowing that you are protecting their freedoms elsewhere in the world because of events that happened right here makes it even more moving.”

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 774 is planning five helicopter-raid demonstrations as a part of Fleet Week 2004. Four of the five boroughs of New York City will see two CH-46 Marine “helos” drop from the sky and have Marines pour into a city park as a narrator describes the action to the crowd.

“We are looking forward to Fleet Week. The Marines are excited about showing New Yorkers what the Corps is all about,” said Ryan.

Ryan, from Centereach, N.Y., on Long Island and whose father was a New York City Policeman with the 111th Precinct in Queens, has supported Fleet Week in the past and is excited about the upcoming opportunity.

A visit to the New York City Police Department’s Aviation Unit’s airfield and headquarters yesterday to coordinate upcoming air traffic proved to be a

reunion. NYPD pilots that Ryan worked with last year immediately remembered him as the two organizations often work together.

The plan for Fleet Week 2004 came together fast. Units from 10th Marine Regiment in Camp Lejeune, N.C., and 4th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, Marine Forces Reserve, West Palm Beach, Fla., will also supported and recently returned from a week-long deployment aboard the *USS Iwo Jima* from May 26 to June 2.



Maj. David C. Andersen

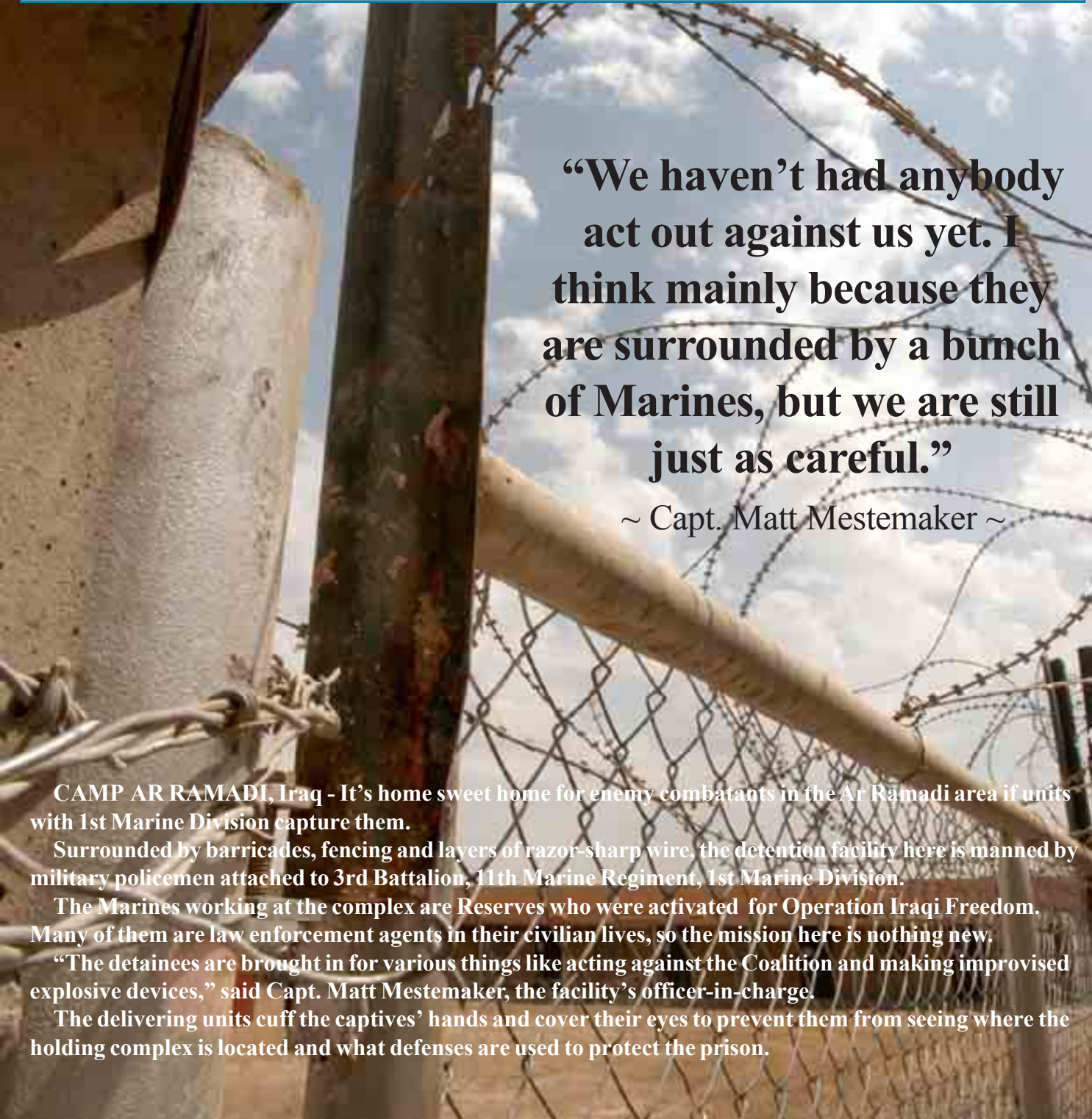
Sgt. Michael Williamson, CH-46 Crew Chief, HMM-774 keeps an eye on the Empire State Building as he makes his way up the East River in New York City.

ENEMY COMBATANTS:

Desert lock-up

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY
CPL. PAULA M. FITZGERALD

Camp Lejeune Public Affairs Office



**“We haven’t had anybody
act out against us yet. I
think mainly because they
are surrounded by a bunch
of Marines, but we are still
just as careful.”**

~ Capt. Matt Mestemaker ~

CAMP AR RAMADI, Iraq - It’s home sweet home for enemy combatants in the Ar Ramadi area if units with 1st Marine Division capture them.

Surrounded by barricades, fencing and layers of razor-sharp wire, the detention facility here is manned by military policemen attached to 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

The Marines working at the complex are Reserves who were activated for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Many of them are law enforcement agents in their civilian lives, so the mission here is nothing new.

“The detainees are brought in for various things like acting against the Coalition and making improvised explosive devices,” said Capt. Matt Mestemaker, the facility’s officer-in-charge.

The delivering units cuff the captives’ hands and cover their eyes to prevent them from seeing where the holding complex is located and what defenses are used to protect the prison.

Enemy Combatants: Desert Lock-up

Once the detainees are brought to the facility, the task of in-processing begins.

"First, they are strip-searched to make sure they don't have any weapons," Mestemaker, the Fredericksburg, Va., native explained. "Then they are checked over by a corpsman for injuries and illnesses. After that's done, they get to have their own clothes back. We're in the process of getting uniforms for the facility."

The next stop for the detainees is the "Interview Room," where they are interrogated by Marines from military intelligence. If the Marines are satisfied with the information they are given, detainees proceed to the supply closet to be issued a mattress and blanket.

According to the staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Gunnery Sgt. Duane G. Hauer, detainees are housed in any one of 27 cells.

"We go through the rooms to make sure there's nothing in them that can be used against us," Hauer, of St. Paul, Minn., added. "We even had to remove the locks on the port-a-johns

because the spring mechanisms could be used as weapons."

One or two detainees occupy most of the cells, but when units conduct large-scale raids, the rooms can hold up to three people. The captives remain here for 72 hours at the longest, unless otherwise directed. After three days, they are released or sent to a larger prison in Iraq.

Lance Cpl. Kevin V. Moore, of Oakdale, Minn., is one of the military policemen who keeps a vigilant watch over the captives.

"Every half-hour we have guards that go around to all the cells and check on the detainees," 21-year-old Moore said.

Because the Marines are restricted from carrying weapons inside the facility, they conduct their cell checks in groups of two or more.

"Most of the detainees are pretty subdued," Mestemaker explained.

"We haven't had anybody act out against us yet. I think mainly because they are surrounded by a bunch of Marines, but we are still just as careful."

Throughout the day, detainees are given as much water as they want; three meals, including a hot lunch from the camp's chow hall and frequent restroom breaks.



The detention facility at Camp Ar Ramadi can house nearly 90 detainees brought in by the units patrolling nearby regions. The captives are given mattresses and blankets when they arrive.

They are also given the opportunity to shower at least once during their stay at the facility.

"When things are kind of slow, we can let the detainees out of their cells for a little while to walk around or pray," Moore said. "It's known as 'sunshine call.'"

Moore explained he does not have a hard time treating the detainees well, even though most of the captured men were brought in for acting against American military forces.

"I just try to remember that everyone here is innocent until proven guilty," he said. "I push away any bad feelings and go on with my job."

It's this kind of professionalism that an inspection team from the Department of the Army recently evaluated.

"They gave us outstanding marks overall and said that this facility set the standard for all the other detention facilities in Iraq," Hauer said.

Still, the military policemen know there is more to be done to better operate the prison.

"We're still adding several more layers of defense," Hauer explained. "There are more barriers and wire being put up."

The military policemen will continue guarding the facility and building up the facility until mid-Fall.



Cpl. Josh E. Hornback, military policeman attached to 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, exchanges an empty bottle of water for a full one during one of his cell checks at the detention facility here. Detainees usually spend a maximum of 72 hours here before being released or sent to a larger prison in Iraq.



MP Charlie Co. polices Iraqi police force

Sgt. Rob Henderson

SGT. ROB HENDERSON

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

ALASAD, Iraq – In years past, it was rare for a Reserve unit to experience back-to-back mobilizations. The Global War on Terrorism has changed that, and now it's not uncommon to find a single unit that has supported the war on terror at least twice.

First Platoon, Military Police Charlie Co., headquartered in Dayton, Ohio, is in Iraq once again, proving the “weekend warrior” misnomer is a thing of the past.

Charlie Co. was activated in March 2003, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. They completed several missions including enemy prisoner of war (EPW) handling, route reconnaissance, and route security. As the unit moved into Iraq, they also participated in entry control missions along the border.

Upon retrograde to Kuwait, the unit provided customs support to redeploying units and continued doing convoy security escorts. The unit returned from Iraq in October 2003, and remained on active duty.

The Reserve Marines redeployed in January to Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twenty-nine Palms, Calif., to augment 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, as the military police component Task Force 2/7 in support of OIF II. Since arriving back in Iraq in February, approximately 115 Reserve Marines from Charlie Co. have worked primarily with Weapons Co., 2/7, providing security for the main supply routes, conducting patrols, and handling detainees.

“Keeping the main supply routes open here is of critical importance,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Rodney W. Barnes, platoon commander, 1st Platoon. “The main threats are improvised explosive devices, car-jacking, and other threats along the routes.”

Since arriving in Iraq, the company has split into several platoon-sized detachments to support all the elements of Regimental Combat Team 7.

“We took a look at each of the platoons and looked at the strengths and weaknesses of the individual platoon,” said

Barnes. “Then we spread-load the platoons across the company to form new, stronger platoons.”

The rest of the platoons are spread through Iraq completing a host of missions from corrections work in Ramadi to training Iraqi police in Al Qaim.

Recently, 1st Platoon, with over 40 percent of its members serving as civilian law enforcement agents, was asked to assist in training the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC). Once trained, the ICDC will serve as Iraq's National Guard.

“Right now, we are developing a curriculum to teach the ICDC basic skills,” said Barnes. “We will be training them in critical skill areas, and ultimately, we will supervise them as they employ those new skills to develop their own security forces.”

Some of the classes being developed include marksmanship training, the responsible use of force and self-defense. The language barrier is proving to be a challenge for the Marines, but they are working around it with the use of Microsoft PowerPoint slides and Iraqi translators.

The company also took the time between deployments to give their Marines classes in basic Arabic, according to Sgt. Lisa D. Graham, assistant operations chief. “The biggest challenge this year, like last year, is the language barrier,” said Graham. “The difference this year is we've had more time to train our Marines, and we've gotten them up to speed on how to communicate with the Iraqi people.”

Through all the challenges, Charlie Co. Marines have proven themselves to be an asset. Like the other Reserve units who have deployed back-to-back to support the Global War on Terrorism, the Reserve MPs will be ready to perform any mission if called upon again.

“It's our job,” said Lance Cpl. Ronald J. Eavers, assault vehicle commander. “If they need us again in the future, we'll be here, as always, ready and able to complete any mission.”

'Red Patches' get the job done in Iraq

SGT. ROB HENDERSON

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

ALASAD, Iraq — For Marines fighting on the frontlines in Iraq, supplies are vital. Beans, bullets and bandages, as the saying goes, don't move themselves. For one Reserve unit from Charleston, S.C., making certain the frontline Marines get their supplies is a responsibility they don't take lightly.

Thirty-six Marines from Charlie Co., 4th Landing Support Battalion, attached to Combat Service Support Battalion 7, are working here to ensure the Marines fighting in and around the Sunni Triangle are well supplied for the fight.

"We're pretty much responsible for getting all the gear out to the infantrymen in the field forward of here," said Greenwood, S.C., native Sgt. Jerry W. Bedenbaugh, landing support specialist and airfield noncommissioned officer-in-charge, 4th LSB. "We use all manner of aircraft, heavy equipment and trucks to move supplies into Iraq and forward."

When resupply flights come into Al Asad, the first place they will stop is Foxtrot Ramp where 4th LSB's job begins.

"As soon as the planes land, we will be there with whatever equipment we need to off-load to flight," said Bedenbaugh. "We usually will have coordinated whatever transportation is needed next, so all we really have to do is put the supplies on trucks or helicopters to get it out to the Marines."

The battalion also has six Reserve Marines working at Kuwait International Airport and 20 at Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait. Throughout Operation Iraqi Freedom II, they have been tasked with off-loading ships, planes from several countries and dozens of helicopters.

"The coordination is the real job," said Bedenbaugh. "We have to know exactly what's coming in so we can prepare for the next leg of the trip. It doesn't do the Marines on the frontlines any good to have their food sitting here while we wait for a truck."

The biggest challenge so far, according to Bedenbaugh, is dealing with the flights returning from the frontlines.

"It never really hits you, sitting here pretty safe, that

there is a real war going on until the helicopters start returning from the frontlines with dead and injured Marines," said Bedenbaugh. "Coming to grips with the deaths, and helping the junior Marines come to grips with the deaths, is really hard. These are our brothers dying here."

Historically, landing support battalions have been used to project logistical support ashore during beach landings. In fact, the red patches worn by landing support specialists have their roots in the island-hopping campaigns of World War II.

"The red patches, at that time on the helmets and on their backs, were used during World War II to identify landing support specialists. That way, they could return to the landing crafts without being harassed by infantry officers who thought they were deserting," said Freehold, N.J., native Lance Cpl. Michael R. Bernstein, landing support specialist, 4th LSB. "Now we also have patches at both knees, because when those World War II Marines would wade back out to their landing craft, their trousers would be stained red with blood up to the knees. The patches today show our heritage."

With a proud tradition to uphold, the Reserve Marines of LSB-4 are doing their best to ensure the supply line between here and the forward-deployed Marines remains uninterrupted. Working in two 12-hour shifts is demanding, but knowing the Marines are taken care of is pay enough, according to Bedenbaugh.



Sgt. Rob Henderson

Charleston, S.C., native Sgt. Bradford P. Molina, heavy equipment operator, 4th Landing Support Battalion, off-loads tray rations from a five-ton truck in Al Asad, Iraq, April 8.

A day in the life of 3/24

CPL. MATTHEW J. APPRENDI
Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – The morning light conquered darkness at Camp Fallujah, Iraq, as Reserve Marines with India Company, 3rd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment prepare for their mission: protecting the camp's perimeter.

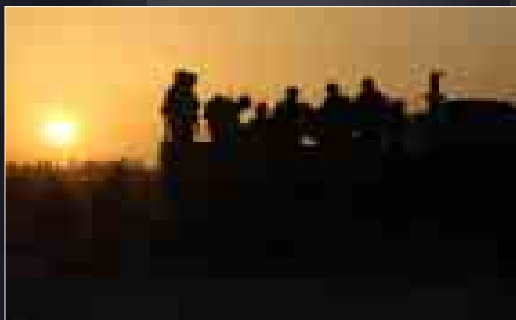
Dawn. The Marines exit a seven-ton truck into a haze formed by the sun's rays filtering through the dusty landscape. For now, they are a part of the Quick Reaction Force - ready to respond to any threat.

The Nashville, Tenn., Reserves' actions have resulted in the apprehension of looters and the neutralization of an insurgent attack, since taking over force protection from the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division on March 13.

"That's the thing about Reserves," said Lance Cpl. Woody Maddox, from Nashville, Tenn. "We're pretty impressive in the fact we can transition from our civilian lives to our military ones from just stepping off a plane."

The Marines, donning armored vests and helmets, walked to their chariots. They began to clean and prepare the tactical vehicles for their shift.

Lance Cpl. William Harber, a machine gunner with the outfit, links strands of machine-gun rounds. When done, Harber, a native of Dickson, Tenn., said, with a thick southern drawl, "Are we fixn' to get some chow?"



Approaching the chow hall, a long line of fellow Marines, sailors and soldiers confronted the team because they stepped in front of the line like they were celebrities entering a hot nightclub in Los Angeles. Force protection personnel have that privilege for being on call 24-hours and seven days a week.

"It's our humor and strong sense of camaraderie that keep us motivated everyday," said Sgt. Joseph Pyadon, a platoon commander and Murfreesboro, Tenn., native. "Everyone is a joker out here."

The Marines scarfed down their food, and then headed back to their staging area. Dismounting the vehicles, they entered their ready room.

They began playing cards - Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers lightly filled the room's air.

They waited for the call to spring into action and defend their base.

"Every time I sit down and start to put that first piece of chocolate cake in my mouth," said Lance Cpl. Neal Griffy, a Unionville, Tenn., native, "we get called. It's inevitable."

This time it was not the chocolate cake, it was the hand of cards that fell to the table when the Marines dashed to their vehicles.

Time blurred, the team exited the camp's perimeter to react to a call received from one of India Co.'s security posts.

Approaching locals in the midst of a massive burial ground of Iraqi military equipment, the Marines motioned for them to drop their bags and raise their hands. They were collecting scrap metal to sell.

After searching the Iraqis and their bags, the Marines snapped photos of them and warned them not to return. If they do, the photos will help identify them.

"The (Iraqi) people out here are extremely nice," said Lance Cpl. Eli P. Stuard, a Chapel Hill, Tenn., native. "They wave. All they want us to do is wave back. It's only a few who don't wave - the ones against our presence here."

It was those few the Marines encountered on March 27.

One of their security posts was taking fire. The team assembled and reacted to the threat in the same manner they respond to any - fast.



Reserves with India Co., 3rd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, scan the Iraqi terrain during a Quick Reaction Force mission outside of Camp Fallujah, Iraq.

"Whether it's looters or a more serious threat," said the Nashville State sophomore Maddox. "It's time to get serious and neutralize it to keep the personnel safe."

The Marines successfully secured the area during the nearly three-hour evolution, Pyadon said.

When the Marines finished their shift, it was time for the reaction force to recharge their bodies with sleep. The incoming team from India Co. took the helm.

The mission for this team will continue until the fall of 2004, when the unit is scheduled to revert back to their civilian lives.

"It's going to be an awesome homecoming," said Stuard. "I'll be seeing my second newborn, Chloe Grace. I'm going to be like, 'Girl, where you come from, you weren't here when I left.'"

Top Left: Marines with India Company, 3rd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment exit a seven-ton truck after completing nightly force protection of Camp Fallujah, Iraq.

Bottom: Lance Cpl. Woody Maddox, an infantryman with India Company, 3rd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, and native of Nashville, Tenn., provides security during a Quick Reaction Force mission outside of Camp Fallujah, Iraq March 23, 2004. India Co. is the force protection for the camp. Photos by Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi.

VMGR-234...to the rescue

SGT. ROB HENDERSON

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

CAMPLEMONIER, Djibouti - The Reserve Marines of Marine Aerial Refueling Transport Squadron 234, headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas, are continuing to redefine the aviation community by taking over a portion of the Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) missions from the United States Air Force in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

During the initial surge into Afghanistan during the opening weeks of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001, Marine aviation achieved a milestone by flying helicopters, utilizing in-flight refueling by KC-130s, further inland than ever before. As a result, the Marine

Corps led the fight against the Taliban, and the face of the Corps' aviation history was forever altered.

"Typically, the aviation community only sees Marine Corps aviation as an element of a Marine Air-Ground Task Force," said Lt. Col. Brian D. Whetstone, detachment commander, VMGR-234, Djibouti detachment. "When higher headquarters realized they had helicopter refueling assets in the Marine Corps, that's when our name got put in the hat to support the global CSAR plan."

The CSAR plan, traditionally left in the hands of the Air Force, encompasses many missions designed to effectively find downed pilots or personnel, respond with helicopters, recover and evacuate the missing service members. The KC-130 "Hercules" enables the helicopters to fly further than ever before by giving pilots an in-air gas station. For the Reserve Marines of VMGR-234, this is an opportunity to employ skills honed during Operation Northern Watch in Iraq during the early years of this decade.

"Based on the experience of having Marine Reserve KC-130s participating in Operation Northern Watch, it was a logical choice to call on the Marine Corps Reserves to complete this mission," said Whetstone. "We've had 100 percent mission accomplishment since we've gotten here, which I attribute to the Marines, the maintainers, of this squadron."

The biggest challenge the squadron has faced since arriving in early February is maintaining aircraft in an austere environment to include dealing with aircraft damaged in last year's deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, a slow-moving supply chain originating in the United States and severe climates. For their part, the Marines feel a sense

of urgency to support the squadron with the best possible maintenance.

"Our attitude is they sent us out here to do a job, keep these planes flying," said Woodriver, Neb., native Lance Cpl. Dustin W. Harders, aviation ordnance man responsible for electronic countermeasures, VMGR-234, Djibouti detachment. "We're going to do it, and do it right the first time so we know the aircraft are ready to go when they're needed."

On top of their involvement with CSAR missions, the KC-130 squadron is also providing troop and supply transports, supporting civil affairs missions by providing aerial transportation and refueling helicopters in flight.

Even with the high operational tempo and a deployment schedule that has seen many of the squadron's Marines deployed twice in as many years, the unit's morale remains high, according to Whetstone. Their hangar, a clamshell tent facing the flight line here, houses an air-conditioned tent where Marines can relax on sofas and watch movies on a large television. There's also a pool table, a foosball table, and books and magazines galore. The idea is to keep the Marines happy during the downtime to enhance performance when the tempo arcs upward.

"Our morale has been high ever since we learned of the deployment, because every Marine seems to understand the importance of our mission with regard to the success of the Global War on Terrorism," said Whetstone. "We try to make things easier on our Marines, while still demanding a lot from them, to create a productive, comfortable work environment."

All the squadron leadership's efforts, combined with a can-do attitude from the Marines, are working to establish Marine Corps aviation as a force capable of missions far outside the traditional MAGTF box. The "Rangers" of VMGR-234 are setting a tone to forever alter Marine Corps aviation history during the same campaign that established the Marine Corps' versatility.



Sgt. Rob Henderson

Sgt. Nicholas W. Smith, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of avionics, VMGR-234, Djibouti detachment, removes a communication display and navigation unit from the cockpit of a KC-130 "Hercules" at Camp Lemonier, Djibouti, April 10.



CAAT on the prowl

Cpl. Matthew J. Appendi

Lance Cpl. Jeffrey W. Herman, a missile gunner with the Combined Anti-Armor Team, Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, scans through his thermal imagery system to spot threats during a patrol.

CPL. MATTHEW J. APPENDI

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

CAMPTAQADDUM, Iraq — The stench of rotten eggs doused with three-month old milk burning in a dump nearly suffocated the Marines with the Combined Anti-Armor Team during a patrol outside of Camp Taqaddum, Iraq, April 23.

The Reserve Marine CAAT element from Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, originally based out of Springfield, Mo., was on a standard mission of conducting security patrols on the outside perimeter of the base.

They are the force protection for the personnel and assets of the camp, charged with preventing insurgents from entering or attacking the 1st Force Service Support Group's headquarters in Iraq.

The late afternoon sky was the backdrop for Robin 1, a Humvee with the CAAT element, as she left the camp's perimeter and rolled across the vast desert floor.

"This is Robin 1," proudly stated Lance Cpl. Jeffrey W. Herman, a missile gunner with the CAAT, and a Broken Arrow, Okla., native, looking at his vehicle. "She's named after Magnum, P.I.'s Ferrari," referring to an early '80s television show.

This was not Robin's maiden voyage into the Iraqi landscape. She has seen and survived combat.

"Just about two weeks ago, (on April 10)," said Sgt. Chad Sharp, Robin's vehicle commander, a Yukon, Okla., native. "We got into a two-hour battle with insurgents."

Sharp, who plans on completing a criminal justice degree at Rose State College in Midwest City, Okla., after his deactivation, said the insurgents set up an ambush. However, the damage was not inflicted on the CAAT - it was redirected toward the enemy.

He said the team cleared out of the kill zone, and then immediately began laying havoc onto the enemy forces with heavy-machine gunfire. AH-1W Super Cobra gunship helicopters joined in to add the finishing touches.

"Nobody froze up at all out there," explained Sharp, who was a Marine Corps Honor Guard member in Washington, D.C., while on active duty. "There was no spazzing or anything like that. We simply got the job done."

The day after the attack, Robin and the team members



Cpl. Matthew J. Appendi

Above: Lance Cpl. Jeffrey W. Herman, a missile gunner with the Combined Anti-Armor Team, Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, and a Broken Arrow, Okla., native, aligns his sight before heading out on a patrol April 23, 2004. Right: Lance Cpl. Herman scans the desert terrain during the patrol.



Cpl. Matthew J. Appendi

searched the battle area thoroughly, Sharp said. They found caches of rocket-propelled grenades, small arms and grenades.

Driving through the soft desert floor, Robin made her way smoothly over the hilly landscape. They stopped and searched old fighting holes, looking for weapons caches.

"I never know what to expect," said Herman, who graduated from Broken Arrow Senior High in 2000. "It's a different experience every time we leave the wire."

Robin hits a large rut; the Marine's heads bang on the ceiling. Lance Cpl. Casey Jardot, a gunner and Bartlesville, Okla., native, jokingly asked the driver, "Hey, you did pass drivers' ed., didn't you?"

Heading toward the edge of a cliff, the vehicles emerged from the desert overlooking the fertile valley of the Euphrates River.

The desert quickly transformed into water, farmland and life.

After examining the area from a distance, the team trekked toward a spot where they set up a vehicle checkpoint.

Dismounting the Humvees, darkness fell on the road. They blocked both lanes of traffic for a random check, and com-

menced looking for incriminating evidence in the vehicles.

"We have to make sure we pick up on all the details - specifically while searching vehicles during the night," said Herman. "How many people are in there? Is anyone hiding? Are there weapons?"

The Marines left the checkpoint after searching approximately a dozen cars.

Back in the desert, Robin drove in blackout conditions through the rugged terrain and a blanket of dust hindering the Marines' sight. The Marines used night vision goggles to compensate. Herman scanned through his thermal imagery system, which spots heat signatures day or night, for enemy forces.

They returned home early the following morning and promptly put Robin to bed before getting some sleep themselves.

"I wanted to get deployed, and I wanted to see combat," said Herman. "After being in combat, I've realized it's not as glamorous as most people or movies say. The best part for me is when I'm simply kicking back with everyone."

KC-130 maintenance crew works relentlessly to keep planes flying

SGT. ROB HENDERSON
Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office



ALASAD, Iraq – Before a KC-130 “Hercules” takes off from Al Asad, Iraq, at least 10 sets of eyes will have scanned every surface inside and out to ensure the aircraft is fit for flight. Roughly three hours of maintenance will have been performed on the aircraft if there is nothing wrong with the plane and more if there are problems that need to be fixed.

For approximately 90 Reserve and active-duty maintenance Marines of the composite KC-130 squadron here, comprised of detachments from the “Rangers” of Marine Aerial Refueling Transport Squadron 234, headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas, and the “Raiders” of Marine Aerial Refueling Transport Squadron 352, from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., constant attention to detail is the secret to keeping the aircraft flying safely during Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

“Our mission here is to maintain aircraft readiness so we can support the ground troops operating in and around the area,” said Sgt. Donald M. Morris Jr., maintenance controller, VMGR-234. “Anything the ground side is going to need, this squadron is the transport for it; therefore, we have to have the aircraft ready to go whenever it’s needed.”

On a daily basis, the maintainers work around the clock, in two shifts, to fix any discrepancies on each of the composite squadron’s six aircraft. The goal is to have each aircraft ready to fly at a moment’s notice.

The six KC-130s start each morning with a daily inspection by a Marine from each of the maintenance shops.

“For the powerlines shop, they have to go out to the plane and check each individual motor to make sure there aren’t any discrepancies the flight engineers or flight mechanics missed,” said Morris.

Approximately 90 Marines from the two squadrons combined to create the maintenance shops responsible for the composite squadron’s six aircraft here.

Sgt. Rob Henderson

"The airframes shop has to check all the hydraulic levels inside the aircraft and the actual frame and metal on the plane. The avionics shop checks all the wires, radios and will check all the indication lights to make sure they're working."

Once the inspection is complete, each shop has to fix the problems they find quickly to get the aircraft ready to fly as soon as possible.

Operating in a desert environment presents many unique challenges for the maintainers, and each new problem must be corrected prior to flight.

"The biggest problem is the heat during the summertime can destroy the engines. The constant dust storms, combined with the heat, is just devastating to the motors," said Morris. "It is especially important for all the maintenance Marines to be aware of the problems that arise in a desert environment, so they can fix any that might come up quickly and get the aircraft in the air."

Besides maintaining aircraft, the maintenance Marines are also tasked with standing guard duty at posts around the flight line to guarantee security around the planes. During the day, maintenance is responsible for two posts, and at night, they are responsible for four posts.

"Guard duty can cause some problems,

because sometimes we need a certain Marine to fix an aircraft, but he is on post," said Weatherford, Texas, native Lance Cpl. Troy D. Elam, airframes mechanic, VMGR-234. "We have to find a replacement for him before we can get him back here to work on the airplane."

Although guard duty can hinder the maintenance mission, the benefit outweighs the harms, according to Morris. The training Marines receive from performing guard duty is invaluable.

"The infantry practice their 'green' skills, their combat skills, everyday," said Morris. "As support personnel, 'green' training isn't always made a priority when we are trying to keep the aircraft up and running. Out here, you get a chance to practice those skills you've learned, all the way back in boot camp, and it really lets you know what it is to be a Marine."

Along with honing their "green" skills, the Marines also have to stay current with certifications and training to complete their day-to-day missions. A lack of dependable communications with various training centers in the United States forces the



Sgt. Rob Henderson

Lance Cpl. Ross T. Edgerley, powerlines mechanic, Marine Aerial Refueling Transport Squadron 234, reattaches spinners to the propellers of a KC-130 "Hercules."

Marines to improvise, adapt and overcome.

"We have to constantly read publications and learn about modifications to the planes," said Morris. "Therefore, each shop really has to stay connected to make sure their Marines are getting the proper training and certifications. The best way to learn here is by watching other Marines and then, getting hands-on training."

All the training and vigilance pays off each time a KC-130 takes to the skies over Al Asad. For at least 10 maintainers who have labored to make the aircraft safe, seeing the KC-130 take off and land without any problems is the ultimate payoff.

"Every time one of our planes comes home safely, I know we've done a good job," said Elam. "We just take it one plane at a time, and at the end of the day, we've gotten them all ready to fly anywhere, anytime."



Sgt. Rob Henderson

Lance Cpl. Ross T. Edgerley and Cpl. Daniel R. Stockton, aircraft mechanic, VMGR-352, work side by side on the propellers of a KC-130 "Hercules."



Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine

Amphibious assault vehicles with UNITAS 45-04 embark on the *USS Tortuga* June 8 for a two-month deployment.

MarForRes Marines, sailors set off for South America

SGT. JENNIFER M. ANTOINE

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - After spending three months training here, the Marines from Marine Forces Reserve participating in UNITAS 45-04 departed June 8 for a two-month training deployment to South America.

Translated from Spanish, UNITAS means "unity," and the 10-day training evolution taking place in Peru and involving 11 South American countries is just that.

UNITAS is unique because all the Marines here have volunteered to take six months away from their families and civilian lives to participate. More than 300 Marines

representing 73 MarForRes units are here to be a part of the exercise.

"This training is what it's all about. We have Marines here from all over the country working together as one unit," said Staff Sgt. Shane Scara, section leader, 3rd Platoon, 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion, 4th Marine Division. "When it is time for us to augment active-duty units, because of training like this, we will be ready."

In the years past, UNITAS was comprised of several small, bi-lateral training exercises with countries throughout South America.

This year, for the first time in UNITAS history, the training will be one large exercise consisting of two separate evolutions conducted concurrently. It will include an amphibious assault landing taking place on the coast of Salinas and jungle/riverine operations in the jungles of Iquitos.

While in Iquitos, the Marines will be taking part in classes on a variety of subjects such as ambush/counterambush, booby traps and river crossings.

The Salinas portion will involve bi-lateral mechanized operations, engineer and reconnaissance training culminating in a three-day final battle problem exercise involving all assets.

According to Sgt. Maj. Joseph M. Davenport III, Task Forces UNITAS Sergeant Major, taking part in an experience like this is great training for the Marines, many of whom have never been aboard a ship.

"I have gotten more [military occupational specialty] training in the last couple months since I have had in the Marines Corps," said 19-year-old Lance Cpl. Michael C. Kidd, 4th AA Bn., and Williamsburg, Va., native. "This is a really good experience to learn about other vehicles, countries and working on a ship."

Although the two major segments of the deployment will be taking place in Peru, the *USS Tortuga* will be making its first stop in the Dominican Republic. There, the Marines and sailors will be participating in a bi-lateral training with the Dominican Naval Infantry. A static display of Marine Corps assets, as well as learning stations will provide an opportunity for the two forces to exchange military knowledge.

"I hope [junior Marines] broaden their culture during this deployment," said Davenport. "Normally, we don't get much of a chance to see other forces and realize they do things just as good as we do."

The Fine Print



A closer look at MARADMINs and ALMARs to help Marines gain a better understanding of the issues that impact the Reserve community.

MARADMIN 233/04

Are you eligible for TRICARE Prime?

This MarAdmin gives updated guidance regarding expanded healthcare coverage for members of the Ready Reserve and their family members.

MARADMIN 236/04

Armed Forces Reserve Medal Eligibility

This message reiterates the eligibility criteria for the AFRM and the "M" device for Marines mobilized or who volunteered to serve on active duty. Review this MarAdmin to see if you qualify for these awards.

MARADMIN 232/04

Selection for initial tours of duty in the Active Reserve force

The next selection board will convene 3 August 2004. Review the message for more information.

